

- Professional Development

- Funding
- Public Fire and Life Safety Education
- Technical Assistance
- Research
- Advocacy
- Operational Support

Virginia Department of Fire Programs

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a message from the **executive** director

In 1981, the Virginia General Assembly combined an Office of Fire Services Training with the Virginia State Fire Services Commission to create the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) and it's policy board, the Virginia Fire Services Board. Many changes have occurred since that time and we are excited that 2006 will mark our 25th anniversary operating as VDFP. During this special year, we hope to acknowledge milestones in our history while emphasizing the future of our agency in the pursuit of excellence.

Before we turn our attention to 2006, it is my pleasure to provide you with an exciting look back at 2005 through the pages of our agency annual report.



We saw many new accomplishments from our dedicated team at VDFP. The finishing touches were completed on our move into the new VDFP Headquarters in Glen Allen. Additional staff members were added to accomodate larger workloads from increased programs and services as well as new initiatives.

All core disciplines within VDFP incurred change in some form. Funded training classes increased from the previous year and we experienced a large demand for National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes as a result of Governor Warner's Executive Order 102 which adopted NIMS as the required incident management system in Virginia.

Higher Education efforts benefited from a unanimous vote by stakeholders to adopt a standardized curriculum for Virginia academic institutions providing Fire Science Technology (FST) certificate and associate degrees. As a complement to a standardized curriculum, 20 VDFP training classes were approved by the American Council on Education for a total of 52 college credits.

Our public fire and life safety efforts intensified with the continuation of our fire safety awareness campaign and an increased presence at safety fairs and similar events.

Although the second volume of the Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was officially released in early January 2006, this telling document exposing large disparities among fire departments across the Commonwealth was conducted in the fall of 2005.

VDFP allocated \$14,604,601.52 to localities in the form of Aid-to-Localities; awarded \$219,313 in training mini-grants; \$25,000 in Virginia Fire Incident Reporting Hardware grants; and continued to provide \$100,000 to the Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Program.

Since the inception of VDFP, the goal has been to fund, train, educate and support Virginia's fire service. Over the years we have experienced strong support from various statewide stakeholder associations, individual fire/rescue departments, partner agencies, and government officials as we work collectively to improve Virginia's fire/rescue service. We are hopeful that we have met the aspirations of those who conducted the very first training and public education opportunities many years ago and look forward to conquering the challenges that face the fire service today and in the future.

Sincerejy,

Aubrey W./. Hyde, Jr.



The **Virginia Fire Services Board** (VFSB) is created within the Virginia Department of Fire Programs pursuant to § 9-153.1 of the Code of Virginia. The Board is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Board members may serve two four-year terms.

The VFSB consists of fifteen Governor appointed members who represent the fire service, fire service organizations, fire instructors, local government, general public, insurance, State Fire Marshal, State Forester, and a member of the Board of Housing and Community Development. Virginia Fire Services Board Members serve in an advisory capacity and assist VDFP in their mission to "achieve excellence in everything we do through effective communication, coordination, and resource management."

Some of the highlights from 2005 included:

Burn Building Policy - in October, VFSB instituted a revised Burn Building Policy which specified a deadline for grant recipients to begin construction by June 30, 2006 or lose status as a funded project. The revised policy also expanded the categories of awards to three types of awards - new construction, repairs, and renovations.

Mid-Atlantic Fire Commissioners Conference - VFSB sent a representative to the Mid-Atlantic Fire Commissioners Conference in West Virginia. The conference was an opportunity to present the VFSB's programs and initiatives to members of the fire service in Mid-Atlantic states. Virginia will host the 2007 conference.

Smoke Alarm Installation and Education Program - VFSB and VDFP voted to pilot a statewide smoke alarm installation and education program to reduce fire deaths and injuries. VFSB dedicated \$35,000 towards the development of the program and \$60,000 of the Fire Programs Fund is committed to the program.

Outgoing Board Members

Robert Smith (General Public) and William Kyger (Virginia Association of Counties)

Current Board Members

Lora J. Sharkey, Chairman - Virginia Professional Firefighter's Association Thomas Fuqua, Vice-Chairman - Virginia Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Floyd E. Greene, Jr. - Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Ed Altizer - Virginia State Fire Marshal
Kenneth J. Brown - Virginia State Firefighter's Association
Gary W. Eads - Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)
Carl Garrison, II - Virginia State Forester
Brian Mullins - Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development
J. Chris Kollman, III - Virginia Municipal League
Dennis Mitchell - Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Michael Reilly - Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Richard Steinberg - Virginia Fire Services Council
Floyd Thomas - Virginia Association of Counties
Susan Williams - Insurance Industry

a look at **training** programs

Firefighter training is a vital element in ensuring that departments across the Commonwealth safely and effectively protect lives and property. As the only agency in the Commonwealth accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Qualifications (aka "Pro Board"), VDFP coordinates fire-rescue training and certification seminars across Virginia.

VDFP offers three types of training: funded, non-funded, and reimbursable. Funded schools are directly funded and delivered by VDFP at no cost to departments or students. Instructors for these classes are VDFP wage employees, and VDFP personnel are responsible for the administration and management of the schools. Non-funded schools require students and/or departments to cover all costs of registration, lodging, meals, text books, and instructor salaries. VDFP supports these schools through coordination, technical assistance, equipment loan, marketing, certification, and records management. Reimbursable schools are coordinated, delivered, and initially funded by VDFP, which is later reimbursed by the department or locality receiving the training.

VDFP coordinated a total of 1,976 schools in FY05, including 595 funded schools (30%), 1,319 unfunded schools (67%) and 62 reimbursable schools (3%). In fiscal year 2005, VDFP had sufficient funding for 30% of all direct training requests statewide. This funding comes from VDFP's annual operating budget, which is completely derived from the special revenue Fire Programs Fund established in the Code of Virginia § 38.2-401. Because there is not a dedicated funding source for statewide training, schools funded by VDFP must be paid for with money remaining after all mandated disbursements/transfers are made from the Fund in accordance with the COV and the Appropriations Act.

VDFP experienced a large demand for National Incident Management System (NIMS) training as a result of Governor Warner's Executive Order 102 which adopted NIMS as the required incident management system. Executive Order 102 also defined VDFP as the executive agent responsible for coordination of NIMS compliant incident management system training activities among state agencies and local governments.

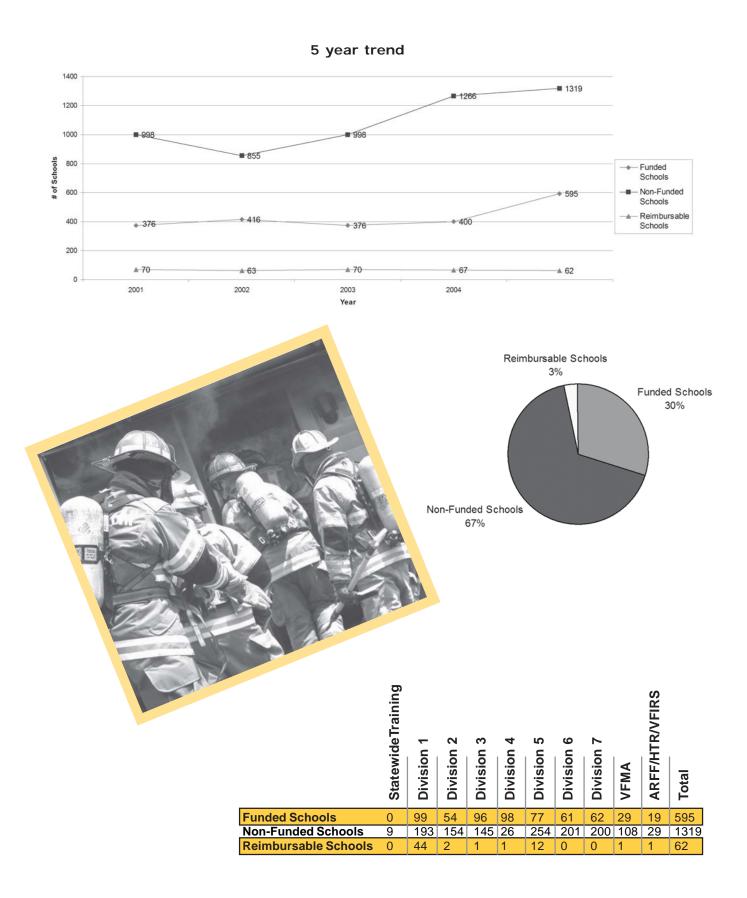
In 2005, VDFP joined a select number of organizations that have added value to their training courses through college credit recommendations as a result of a review conducted by the American Council on Educations (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service. A team of content specialists, selected from college faculty, has reported that the VDFP courses are comparable to college level courses and may be used as transfer credits at many colleges and universities. Twenty courses were evaluated and recommended for 52 semester hours college credit. In addition, VDFP has been authorized to use one semester hour college credit for each of the Hand-Off Programs of National Fire Academy (NFA) courses they teach. Hand-Off programs are courses developed by NFA, piloted by NFA for one to two years, and then handed-off to the states.

Training courses with approved ACE accreditation is one movement towards the enhancement of higher education opportunities within Virginia's fire service. Another milestone towards the same goal was the unanimous vote by the Higher Education Stakeholder Focus Group to adopt a standardized curriculum for Virginia academic institutions offering Fire Science Technology certificate and associates degrees.

As of July 2005, VDFP began registering all students that successfully complete a VDFP certification course with the Pro Board National Registry. All students that have successfully completed a VDFP certification course since January 1, 2003 through May 31, 2005 are now registered with the Pro Board National Registry. Additionally, each quarter the Virginia Department of Fire Programs will send an updated list to Pro Board for incorporation into their National Registry. Over 22,000 completed VDFP certifications now reside in the Pro Board National Registry.

Students no longer have to fill out the Pro Board registration form and pay \$15 per certification to be registered in the Pro Board National Registry. Since the Pro Board seal is now included on VDFP certification certificates, students no longer need a separate Pro Board certificate.

a look at **training** programs

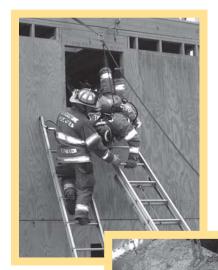


tracking ATL distributions

VDFP allocated **\$14,604,601.52** from the FY05 Fire Programs Fund directly to Virginia localities. The Fire Programs Fund comes from a one percent levy on certain fire related insurance coverages. After committed fixed obligations, 75% of the Fire Program Fund is annually distributed to 324 counties, cities, and incorporated towns within the Commonwealth as part of the Aid to Localities (ATL) program. ATL provides funding to pay for firefighting equipment, personal protective clothing and gear, prevention and training. These funds may not be used to supplant or replace any other appropriations by counties, cities, and towns for fire service operations.

FY - 2005 ATL Allocation Summary

Summary	Locality	Population	Allocation	Per Capita
95	Counties	4,287,466	\$8,455,631.20	\$1.97
190	Towns	442,154	\$1, <mark>516,9</mark> 60.51	\$3.43
39	Cities	2,349,410	\$4,632,009.81	\$1.97
324	Virginia	7,079,030	\$14,604,601.52	\$2.06
29%	Counties %	61%	58%	
59%	Towns %	6%	10%	
12%	Cities %	33%	32%	



Fiscal Year	Amount
1999	\$8,571,597.00
2000	\$8,462,522.00
2001	\$9,247,021.00
2002	\$10,277,263.00
2003	\$10,303,723.00
2004	\$11,334,128.74
2005	\$14,604,601.52
2006	\$16,654,699.00

fy05 **grant** recipients

Twenty-four localities received a total of \$31,000 for the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) Technology Hardware Grant Program. The purpose of this grant program (approx. \$25,000 annually) is to provide an incentive to jurisdictions participating in VFIRS by lessoning the economic burden associated with hardware.

FY 2005 VFIRS Hardware Grant Recipients

Alexandria City
Big Stone Gap Town
Buckingham County
Campbell County
Charlotte County
Chilhowie Town
Claremont Town
Cumberland County
Farmville Town
Glade Spring Town
Goochland County
Halifax County

Kenbridge Town
Lancaster County
Luray Town
Manassas City
Nelson County
Patrick County
Pembroke Town
Pittsylvania County
Pulaski County
Rockingham County
Rural Retreat Town
York County

Burn Building Grants provide development grants (\$975,000 annually) for the construction and repair of burn buildings. The following localities received funding in FY05 for the Burn Building Grant Program: Buckingham County (\$325,000), Chesterfield County (\$430,00), and Roanoke County (\$15,250). Currently there are 12 active new burn building construction projects, 4 active repair projects, 6 completed new construction projects, and 8 completed repair projects.

FY 2005 Training Mini-Grant Award Recipients			
Accomack County	\$4,110.00	Lawrencville	\$1,500.00
Alberta	\$9,123.00	Loudoun	\$9,888.00
Bland County	\$700.00	Mecklenburg	\$3,194.00
Boteourt County	\$3,000.00	Middlesex	\$9,825.00
Brunswick County	\$3,648.00	Newport News	\$6,538.00
Buckingham	\$7,274.00	Nottoway	\$6,625.00
Charlotte County	\$5,690.00	Occuquan	\$6,000.00
Charles City	\$5,000.00	Patrick	\$3,000.00
Chesterfield County	\$6,400.00	Pulaski County	\$3,923.00
Colonial Heights	\$4,721.00	Pulaski	\$3,970.00
Danville City	\$9,180.00	Radford	\$9,778.00
Drakes Branch	\$1,650.00	Roanoke County	\$4,500.00
Dublin, Town	\$4,000.00	Roanoke City	\$5,772.00
Exmore, Town	\$4,000.00	Smyth Town	\$9,490.00
Fairfax	\$10,000.00	Warrenton Town	\$6,500.00
Galax	\$3,000.00	Waynesboro	\$9,490.00
Goochland	\$8,274.00	Winchester	\$7,500.00
Kenbridge	\$4,670.00	York County	\$10,000.00
LaCrosse	\$7,380.00	Total Awarded \$2	219,313.00

The Virginia Fire Services Board awarded 37 **Training Mini-Grants** in **FY05** totaling \$219,313.00. Grant funds come from the interest earned by the Fire Programs Fund. These grants are for projects and programs which positively impact and/or further fire service training within the Commonwealth.

fy05 **grant** recipients

The **Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program** is funded from the Fire Programs Fund per *Code of Virginia § 38.2-401* and is administered through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The program provides \$100,000 annually for the installation of dry fire hydrants into natural water supplies such as ponds or lakes, primarily in rural areas.

Get Alarmed, Virginia! is a state program designed to assist in lowering state fire injury, death and loss of property, via the identification and installation of smoke detectors, and the delivery of public fire and life safety education. The Get Alarmed, Virginia! program is funded by a state-secured federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The smoke alarm installation and public education program includes smoke alarms, equipment, and project coordination costs for installation and education management. The seven recipients of the 2005-2006 Get Alarmed, Virginia! grants were Newport News Fire Department, York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, Lyn-Dan Heights Volunteer Fire Department, Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, West Piedmont Health District, Roanoke Fire and EMS.

Conference and Education Assistance Grants provide needed financial support for conferences and seminars sponsored by Virginia-based non-profit organizations that further the education of fire and emergency services personnel throughout the Commonwealth. Grants total approximately \$45,000 annually (budget permitting). In 2005, VDFP provided funding to the Virginia State Chiefs Association, Virginia Firefighters Association, and Virginia Fire and Life Safety Coalition for educational conferences.

Virginia Fire Marshal Recertification Awards - Provide \$15,000 per year towards fire marshal recertification. Previous recipients include the International Association of Arson Investigators - Virginia Chapter, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, and Regional Fire Marshal's Recertification.

Federal Assistance - Beginning in 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is the first federal grant program specifically designed to provide direct funding to local municipal fire departments. The program is administered by the United States Fire Administration, a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security. All local fire departments nationwide are eligible to compete for assistance. Eligible activities under the Fire Act include fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. Virginia received \$13,321,052 in FY05 - a \$2,248,780 increase from FY04.

governor's fire services awards

On Friday, February 26, 2005 VDFP, VFSB, and the Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety, jointly presented the third annual Governor's Excellence in Fire Service Awards. Six individuals and one organization were honored for their outstanding contributions in the areas of fire prevention, fire safety leadership and fire response.

Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski of York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Services Award*; Wanda G. Willis of the Harrisonburg Fire Department received the *Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Education Award*; Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr. of the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Management Award*. Robert L. Ditch of Tidewater received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Training Award*; John F. Flippo of Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue Services received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Prevention Award*; and Chesterfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services received the *Outstanding Fire Department Response Award*.

reaching **OUT** to the public

VDFP provides technical assistance to local fire departments, health educators, medical and public health professionals, classroom teachers, elder service providers, community and service organizations, parents, caregivers, and anyone else interested in collaborating on fire and life safety education.

VDFP assists fire prevention efforts by:

- ♦ Conducting research to identify statewide fire safety education needs utilizing the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS).
- Coordinating existing statewide fire and injury prevention efforts.
- ♦ Developing goals, programs, and partnerships to increase statewide fire and injury prevention efforts.
- Serving as liaison between federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved in fire and life safety.
- Developing public education materials in several forms and by making the materials available for statewide use.

VDFP continues to provide vital fire and life safety educational resources to fire service members and the general public. The 2005 Virginia State Fair served as a venue to provide over 10,000 fire safety activity booklets to parents and children. VDFP prepared for the winter season by developing two movie theatre public service announcements (PSA) highlighting heating safety issues and candle safety issues. Each PSA ran in 288 movie theatre screens across the Commonwealth for an entire month. Radio PSA's in 5 different markets accompanied the movie theatre spots. VDFP continuously answers requests for resources from public sector individuals looking to provide fire and life safety education.

VDFP is the primary contact in Virginia for other fire and life safety outreach initiatives such as FireCorps, NFPA RiskWatch Champions, and *Get Alarmed, Virginia*.

annual fallen firefighter service

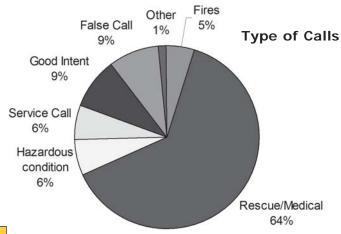
VDFP sponsors the annual **Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service** held the first Saturday in June. The service typically honors firefighters recognized as line of duty death through state and/or federal regulations. The event is planned by a voluntary committee and receives donations in the form of money, goods and services to enhance VDFP funding.

In June 2005, Virginia honored Firefighter Robert Erb, Jr. of Petersburg Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and Namozine Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Firefighter Jean Nuckols of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services and Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter Arnold Stoneman of Norfolk Fire-Rescue, and Captain Steven M. Rosenfeld of Salem Volunteer Fire Department.

fire **statistics** in Virginia - 2004

Type of Calls

Rescue/Medical	301,449
Fires	24,846
Hazardous Condition	30,072
Service Call	29,661
Good Intent	43,869
False Call	42,455
Other	6,863
Total	479.215



Virginia Fire Related Injuries and Deaths

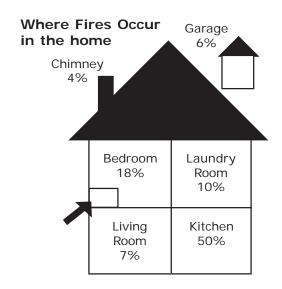
Civilian Fire Reported Injuries	506
Civilian Fire Reported Deaths	118
Fire Fighter Fire Related Injuries	187
Fire Fighter Fire Related Deaths	1
Total Reported Fire Dollar Loss	\$585,976,242

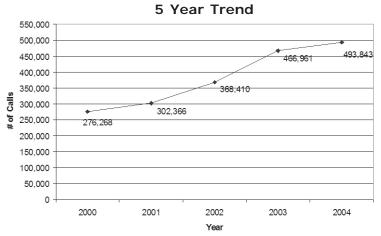
Fire Departments in Virginia

Municipal Fire Departments	599
Volunteer	530 (88%)
Combination	54 (9%)
Career	15 (3%)
Fire Brigades	37
Other Fire Departments	27
Total Fire Organizations	663

Individuals active in FSTRS (trained within 5 years)

•	-
Brigade	2273 (6.47%)
Career	8147 (23.20%)
Combination	1192 (3.39%)
Volunteer	14638 (41.68%)
EMS	3899 (11.10%)
Unknown	1218 (3.47%)
Other	3750 (10.68%)
Total	35,117





Source: Virginia Fire Service Training Record System and Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System as of August 8, 2005

using research as a resource

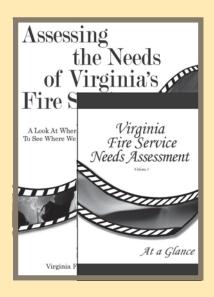
Research is a crucial way in which VDFP can assist in addressing issues that face the fire service in Virginia. VDFP is dedicated to the collection, analysis and dissemination of information regarding the needs of the fire service and to aid in the protection of those in the Commonwealth. In 2005 VDFP conducted studies to address these issues and promote safety in Virginia.

Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment Volume II

In order to provide decision makers with adequate information to make informed decisions with regard to fire service funding issues, VDFP was directed to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Virginia's fire service.

The first Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was released in January 2004. A supplement was released later that year. The second volume of the Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was released in January 2006, comprised of data gathered from a follow-up survey conducted in the fall of 2005.

The 152 page document provides an overview of Virginia's fire-rescue service through current needs assessment survey data and fire trends. The key findings of the document listed funding, staffing, communication, training, fire prevention, EMS, apparatus, facilities and equipment as the top needs of Virginia's fire service. An "At a Glance" guide was created to accompany the complete needs assessment and highlight the key findings.



Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

As requested in the 2005 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 951, VDFP compiled a report on SAFER Matching Grant expenditures. This report provides comprehensive information on the SAFER grant program at the federal and state levels. Subsequent reports will provide additional information on the impact of the SAFER grant program in Virginia.

SAFER Matching Grant Fund provides grants to help volunteer, career, and combination fire departments increase their active firefighter membership. Ultimately, the goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance their ability to attain 24-hour staffing and thus assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER grants have two activities that will help grantees attain this goal: 1) hiring of firefighters, and 2) recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

SAFER requires a non-federal match in years one through four of the grant (minimum of 10, 20, 50, and 70 percent, respectively). The 2005 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 951 created a SAFER Matching Grant Fund of \$250,000 from the general fund to serve as a state reimbursement to VA localities for the first year local matching requirement of 10 percent.

Nationwide, the total federal share that was requested was \$835,909,950 for hiring, \$147,738,352 for recruitment/retention, and \$158,204,896 for both hiring and recruitment/retention. As of January 31, 2006, SAFER grants for four Virginia fire departments have been announced, with \$800,000 granted to Arlington County for hiring; a total of \$1,291,400 granted for recruitment/retention to Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (\$75,000), Loudoun County Fire Advisory Council, Inc.(\$230,000) and Hanover Fire and EMS (\$986,400).

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